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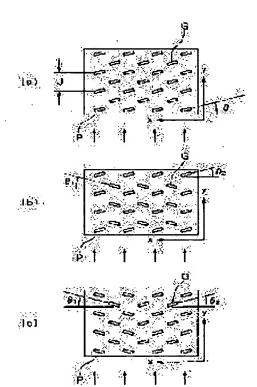
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(54) LIGHT GUIDE PLATE AND SURFACE LIGHT SOURCE DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To efficiently project light which is made incident on the light guide plate from a light source by intermittently forming many grooves which reflect and refract light guided into the light guide plate and slanting the length of the grooves at a specific angle to one side of the light guide plate. SOLUTION: Many grooves G which reflect and refract the light guided into the light guide plate are fold intermittently and the length of the grooves G slants at an angle θ (0° $<\theta \le \pm 45$ °) to one side of the light guide plate. The length of the grooves G is arranged at the angle θ to the -x direction where a linear light source is arranged. Grooves constituting one array and grooves constituting its adjacent array are arranged shifting by a half pitch (J/2) from each other (a). Grooves constituting one array are arranged at an angle θ 1 to an (x) direction and grooves constituting its adjacent array are arranged at an angle D I to the-x direction (b). In either case, the angles θ , θ 1, and θ 2 are 0 to 45° and, preferably, ± 10 to $\pm 35^{\circ}$.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] Arrange the light source to the end face of a rectangle-like light guide plate, and the light of this light source is drawn into a light guide plate. It is the light guide plate used for the source equipment of sheet-like light made to emit light from the transverse plane of a light guide plate, making the inside of a light guide plate reflected and refracted. include-angle theta (0 degree < theta<=**45 degrees)

Forming intermittently in the rear face of a light guide plate many slots which make the light drawn into the light guide plate reflected and refracted, the longitudinal direction of said slot is a light guide plate characterized by leaning to one side of a light guide plate.

[Claim 2] The light guide plate according to claim 1 with which the longitudinal direction of a slot is characterized by the thing which are 10 degrees thru/or 35 degrees, and which is leaned the include angle (**10 degrees <= theta<=**35 degrees) to one side of a light guide plate.

[Claim 3] It is the light guide plate according to claim 1 which two or more trains arrangement of said slot is carried out, and is characterized by the include angle theta to one side of the light guide plate of the longitudinal direction of a slot being the same in a single tier, and the sense being reverse for every train.

[Claim 4] the include angle [as opposed to / two or more trains arrangement of said slot is carried out, and / one side of the light guide plate of the longitudinal direction of a slot] theta -- a group -- the light guide plate according to claim 1 characterized by being the same in a train and the sense being reverse for every group.

[Claim 5] Arrange the light source to the end face of a rectangle-like light guide plate, and the light of this light source is drawn into a light guide plate. It is source equipment of sheet-like light made to emit light from the transverse plane of a light guide plate, making the inside of a light guide plate reflected and refracted. include-angle theta (0 degree < theta<=**45 degrees) The longitudinal direction of said slot is source equipment of sheet-like light characterized by leaning to one side of the light guide plate with which many slots which make the light drawn into the light guide plate reflected and refracted are intermittently formed in the rear face of a light guide plate, and the main light source is arranged.

[Claim 6] Source equipment of sheet-like light according to claim 5 with which the longitudinal direction of a slot is characterized by the thing which are 10 degrees thru/or 35 degrees, and which is leaned the include angle (**10 degrees <= theta<=**35 degrees) to one side of the light guide plate with which the main light source is arranged.

[Claim 7] It is source equipment of sheet-like light according to claim 5 which two or more trains arrangement of said slot is carried out, and is characterized by the include angle theta to one side of the light guide plate with which the main light source of the longitudinal direction of a slot is arranged being the same in a single tier, and the sense being reverse for every train.

[Claim 8] the include angle theta to one side of the light guide plate with which two or more trains arrangement of said slot is carried out, and the main light source of the longitudinal direction of a slot is arranged — a group — the source equipment of sheet—like light according to claim 5 characterized by being the same in a train and the sense being reverse for every group.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the light guide plate used for the back light of a liquid crystal display etc., and the source equipment of sheet-like light using this light guide plate.
[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The liquid crystal display is usually equipped with the back light (source equipment of sheet-like light). What takes out light from the transverse plane of a light guide plate uniformly is known, arranging the line light source as this back light to the end face of the transparent sheet metal made of resin (it is called a "light guide plate".), and making the light of this line light source reflected and refracted a rear face and inside a light guide plate (reference, such as JP,3-189679,A, JP,4-278922,A, and JP,7-72477,A).

[0003] The typical structure of such a light guide plate is shown in drawing 6. The cold cathode tube 12 is arranged in the end side of a light guide plate 14, and the reflective pattern is printed by the rear face of a light guide plate 14. The light which came out of the cold cathode tube 12 is refracted on the boundary of the interior and the exterior of a light guide plate 14 etc., and outgoing radiation is carried out from the outgoing radiation side, i.e., the transverse plane, of a light guide plate 14 while it enters into a light guide plate 14 and being reflected by printing dot 13 grade. In order to gather the effectiveness of optical outgoing radiation, each reflecting plates 15, 16, and 17 may be formed in the rear face and end face of a light guide plate the surroundings of a cold cathode tube 12, the optical diffusion sheet 18 for losing brightness nonuniformity may be further put on the transverse plane of a light guide plate 14, and the prism sheet 19 for raising transverse—plane brightness on it further may be placed.

[0004] the reflective pattern on the rear face of a light guide plate — TiO2 etc. — what minced the V groove along the direction of a long side or the direction of a shorter side of a thing and a light guide plate which screen—stenciled the white ink containing a dispersing agent in the shape of a dot, embossing, and the thing which carried out crepe processing are known. Furthermore, many slots which carry out reflective refraction of the light by which incidence is carried out from the light source are intermittently formed in the transverse plane or rear face of a light guide plate, and the light guide plate which set up the clearance through which light can pass as it is between said slots and slots is proposed recently along the travelling direction of the light by which incidence is carried out from the light source (refer to JP,8–286037,A). According to this light guide plate, uniform field luminescence is attained.

[0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Although a light guide plate given [said] in JP,8-286037,A is

excellent, field luminescence is carried out still more efficiently and the light guide plate with high transverse-plane brightness is called for. Then, this invention aims at realizing the light guide plate and the source equipment of sheet-like light to which outgoing radiation of the light which carried out incidence to the light guide plate from the light source can be carried out efficiently.

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem] include-angle theta (0 degree < theta<=**45 degrees) The light guide plate of this invention formed intermittently in the rear face of a light guide plate many slots which make the light drawn into the light guide plate reflected and refracted, and the longitudinal direction of said slot leans to one side of a light guide plate (claim 1). since according to the aforementioned configuration reflective refraction of the light drawn into the light guide plate is carried out in the slot prepared aslant and light is emitted from a transverse plane -- almost -- ** in homogeneity -- efficient field luminescence is attained.

[0007] A screen becomes legible, when luminescence brightness goes up as compared with the case (theta= 0 degree) where a slot is prepared just beside by forming a slot aslant especially and it uses for a liquid crystal display. Although especially the configuration of said one-piece one slot is not limited, it is the crevice thru/or impression by which the cross-section V cut was carried out fundamentally, for an effective area, the cross section of a right-angled direction is the isosceles triangle whose vertical angle is about 90 degrees to a rectangle or an oblong, and its effective area, and the both-ends side of a slot is a field which has the curvature of a convex toward a flat surface or outside, and makes the inclination of about 45 degrees to an effective area and a roof.

[0008] The thing whose longitudinal directions of said slot are 10 degrees thru/or 35 degrees to one side of a light guide plate and which is leaned the include angle (**10 degrees <= theta<=**35 degrees) is desirable (claim 2). Especially, it is desirable that it is the range of **15 degrees <= theta<=**25 degrees. If it is the range of such an include angle theta, uniform field luminescence is easily realizable especially.

[0009] Two or more trains arrangement of said slot is carried out, the include angle theta to one side of the light guide plate of the longitudinal direction of a slot is the same in a single tier, and it is desirable for the sense to be reverse for every train (claim 3). With such an array, since reflective refraction is carried out at the include angle which is different for every single tier in the slot prepared aslant, field luminescence more more efficient than ** in homogeneity of the light drawn into the light guide plate is attained.

[0010] the include angle [as opposed to / two or more trains arrangement of said slot is carried out, and / one side of the light guide plate of the longitudinal direction of a slot] theta — a group — in a train, it is the same and it is desirable for the sense to be reverse for every group (claim 4). the slot in which the light drawn into the light guide plate was aslant prepared when it was such an array — hitting — a group — since reflective refraction is carried out at the include angle which is different for every single tier, field luminescence more more efficient than ** in homogeneity is attained like invention according to claim 3.

[0011] Moreover, the light guide plate of a publication is used for the source equipment of sheet-like light of this invention by claim 4 from claim 1 (claim 5-claim 8). In addition, this semantics is as follows although the vocabulary the "main light source" is used in claim 5-claim 8. When the one light source is arranged, the light source concerned turns into the "main light source", and the way where two or more light sources are arranged [of any or the total quantity of light] at the end face from which a light guide plate differs in many cases becomes the "main light source." time the total quantity of light is the same — either — one side of arbitration becomes the "main light source."
[0012]

[Embodiment of the Invention] The accompanying drawing which shows an example below explains to a detail. <u>Drawing 1</u> is the sectional view of the source equipment of sheet-like light, the line light source L of a cold cathode-ray tube etc. is arranged in the end side (drawing left-hand side) of a light guide plate

P, and the light of this line light source L is introduced into the interior of a light guide plate P through said end side. The rear-face reflecting plate R for making it go on without leaking the light introduced into the interior of a light guide plate P to the lower part is attached in the inferior surface of tongue (rear face) of a light guide plate P in the state of adhesion, and the optical diffusion sheet T which diffuses the light which carried out outgoing radiation from the top face of a light guide plate P is attached in the top face (transverse plane) of a light guide plate P in the state of adhesion. Moreover, the prism sheet (not shown) for turning light in the direction of a transverse plane is attached on the optical diffusion sheet T.

[0013] The light guide plate P itself consists of transparence resin, such as acrylic resin (MMA etc.), polystyrene, a polycarbonate, a polyvinyl chloride, and polypropylene, and many slots G which have directivity are formed in the rear face (refer to <u>drawing 3</u>). <u>Drawing 2</u> is drawing showing how to take the configuration of a light guide plate P, and an axis of coordinates. The light guide plate P is carrying out the shape of a rectangle, the direction of a transverse plane is taken in the direction of +z, and it takes the direction of an end face for the direction of a rear face in **x direction and the **y direction of the direction of -z. By a diagram, the line light source L is arranged at the end face of the direction of -y.

[0014] <u>Drawing 3</u> (a) It is the bottom view which looked at the light guide plate P from the field in which the rear face G, i.e., a slot, was formed. Each slot G is a minute long and slender impression, and it is arranged so that the longitudinal direction of a slot may make -x direction and include angle theta by which the line light source L is arranged. And slots are arranged by the single tier in the direction of length (y). Since only a half-pitch (J/2) shifts and is arranged mutually, if the slot which constitutes a certain single tier, and the slot which constitutes the next single tier see as a whole, the slot will be arranged by turns. The range of an include angle theta is from **10 degrees to **35 degrees preferably from 0 degree to **45 degrees.

[0015] <u>Drawing 3</u> (b) It is drawing showing other examples of arrangement of a slot. The slot which constitutes a certain single tier is x directions and an include angle theta 1. The slot which is arranged so that it may make, and constitutes the next single tier is -x direction and an include angle theta 2. It is arranged so that it may make. Therefore, <u>drawing 3</u> R> 3 (b) A slot is <u>drawing 3</u> (a). Although it is similarly arranged by turns if it sees as a whole, it is different that directions differ every single tier. Include angle theta 1 Preferably from 0 degree to **45 degrees, the range is from **10 degrees to **35 degrees preferably from 0 degree to **45 degrees to **35 degrees preferably from 0 degree to **45 degrees.

[0016] <u>Drawing 3</u> (c) It is drawing showing the example of arrangement of the slot of further others. All the slots that constitute a certain two or more trains (a group train) are x directions and an include angle theta 1. The slot which is arranged so that it may make, and constitutes the following two or more trains is -x direction and an include angle theta 2. It is arranged so that it may make. Therefore, this <u>drawing 3</u> (c) A slot is <u>drawing 3</u> (a). Although it is similarly arranged by turns if it sees as a whole, it is the description that directions differ every two or more trains. An include angle theta 1 and theta 2 The range which can be taken is also from **10 degrees to **35 degrees preferably from 0 degree to **45 degrees.

[0017] the sectional view in which <u>drawing 4</u> shows the configuration of one slot G — it is — this drawing (a) from — (e) by — various modifications are shown. <u>Drawing 4</u> (a) The configuration of the triangle pole is shown. As for drawing of longitudinal section and a2, a1 is [a cross-sectional view and a3] the perspective views of a configuration (the same is below said of the (e) from (b)). The die length of the slot on the longitudinal section is expressed with d, and the depth of flute is expressed with h. The V cut of the cross section of a slot is carried out, and it serves as about 2 equilateral triangles. Since the rate of reflective refraction can be adjusted by changing this depth—of—flute h, depth—of—flute h can be chosen so that outgoing radiation of the light may be carried out to homogeneity from the transverse plane of a light guide plate (following <u>drawing 4</u> (b) in — (e), it is the same).

[0018] <u>Drawing 4</u> (b) The configuration of the triangle pole is shown. The cross section serves as a right triangle mostly. <u>Drawing 4</u> (c) The triangle pole with the 1 side side shorter than other side sides is shown. <u>Drawing 4</u> (d) <u>Drawing 4</u> (c) It considers as a basic form, an effective area is made into an ellipse, and the configuration which cut off Morozumi round is shown. <u>Drawing 4</u> (e) The configuration of the square pole is shown. The longitudinal section and the cross section have a trapezoid shorter than the side where one side counters.

[0019] Although it is desirable to carry out injection molding and to make using metal mold as for the light guide plate P with such a slot when the mass-production nature of a light guide plate P is taken into consideration, of course, it is also possible to carry out cutting of each slot and to make it with a carbide bit or a diamond tool. As mentioned above, although the gestalt of operation of this invention has been explained, this invention is not limited to said gestalt. For example, if the configuration of a slot has directivity, it will not be restricted to said gestalt. Moreover, although the light source L is arranged with said operation gestalt in the end side of a light guide plate P as shown in drawing 5 (a), the light source Drawing 5 (b) You may be arranged at two end faces of a light guide plate P, respectively so that it may be shown, and it is drawing 5 (c). It may be arranged at two end faces which a light guide plate P counters so that it may be shown, and is drawing 5 (d). It may be arranged to the typeface of KO at three end faces of a light guide plate P so that it may be shown. drawing 5 (b) from — (d) Setting, the "main light source" turns into the light source arranged in a top or the bottom.

[0020] In addition, it is possible to perform modification various in the range which does not change the summary of this invention.

[0021]

[Example] (1) From the super-steel cutting tool, cutting of the slot was carried out one by one, and it was established in example 120mmx90mm (6 inches of vertical angles) of this invention, and the transparence plate with a thickness of 3mm made of acrylic resin. The array of a slot is <u>drawing 7</u> (a). As shown, the single tier include-angle theta Leaned and prepared the slot to the light entering surface, and the pitch J was set to 1.2mm. The next single tier was half-pitch ** carried out, was include-angle-theta Leaned and prepared to the light entering surface, repeated these by turns and prepared the slot all over the rear face of a light guide plate.

[0022] The configuration of each slot is <u>drawing 7</u> (b). As shown, it is <u>drawing 4</u> (d). It is the same. With the ellipse, the effective area is carved also from the edge of 45 degrees and a minor axis at the include angle of 45 degrees from the edge of a major axis. 260 micrometers and depth h were made deep as they set to h= 25 micrometers and kept away from the light entering surface in the slot nearest to a light entering surface, and die-length e of the roof of a slot set them to h= 180 micrometers in the most distant slot.

[0023] In addition, around the side face in which arrange a cold cathode-ray tube with an outer diameter of 2mm by which an inverter drive is carried out to the light entering surface of a light guide plate as the light source, and the light source is not arranged, the rear face of a light guide plate, and a cold cathode-ray tube, the reflecting plate which consists of an opaque PET (polyethylene terephthalate) film has been arranged. In the front face (outgoing radiation side) of a light guide plate, BEFII by Sumitomo 3M company has been arranged for OPARUSU ZN-BS by the KEIWA commerce-and-industry company as a prism sheet as an optical diffusion sheet. The evaluation approach measured the transverse-plane brightness of the center section of the luminescence side from the location distant from the outgoing radiation side 20cm using what attached the close-up photography lens in luminance-meter LS-110 by Minolta Co., Ltd. Moreover, the angle-of-visibility property of brightness was measured by attaching a light guide plate in a rotation stage, and making it rotate if needed. According to viewing, uniform distribution was acquired.

[0024]

whenever [tilt-angle / of a slot] -- the case of theta= 10 degrees -- transverse-plane brightness 2045 cd/cm2 whenever [tilt-angle / of a slot] -- the case of theta= 20 degrees -- transverse-plane

brightness 2294 cd/cm2 whenever [tilt-angle / of a slot] -- the case of theta= 30 degrees -- transverse-plane brightness 2028 cd/cm2 it was .

(2) the place where whenever [tilt-angle / of the example slot of a comparison] manufactured at the light guide plate which is 0 degree, and measured transverse-plane brightness like the above -- 1965 cd / cm2 it was

[0025] Therefore, it turned out that it becomes a light guide plate with brighter leaning a slot. [0026]

[Effect of the Invention] According to a light guide plate according to claim 1 or the source equipment of sheet-like light according to claim 5, as mentioned above Many slots which make the light drawn into the light guide plate reflected and refracted are intermittently formed in the rear face of a light guide plate. The longitudinal direction of said slot Since it include-angle theta (0 degree < theta<=**45 degrees) Leans to one side of a light guide plate, the light guide plate whose include angle theta is 0 degree, the light guide plate to which uniform higher field luminescence of brightness is carried out compared with a 90-degree light guide plate, or the source equipment of sheet-like light is realizable.

[0027] according to a light guide plate according to claim 2 or the source equipment of sheet-like light according to claim 6 — the longitudinal direction of a slot — the end face concerned — receiving — the include angle (**10 degrees <= theta<=**35 degrees) of 10 degrees thru/or 35 degrees — since it leans, reflective refraction of the light can be carried out efficiently, and uniform field luminescence can be realized still more easily. According to a light guide plate according to claim 3 or the source equipment of sheet-like light according to claim 7, reflective refraction is carried out at an opposite include angle for every single tier in the slot in which the light drawn into the light guide plate since the sense was reverse for every single tier was prepared aslant, and field luminescence much more more efficient than ** in homogeneity of the include angle theta of a slot is attained.

[0028] According to a light guide plate according to claim 4 or the source equipment of sheet-like light according to claim 8, reflective refraction is carried out at an opposite include angle for every group in the slot in which the light drawn into the light guide plate since the sense was reverse for every group was prepared aslant, and field luminescence much more more efficient than ** in homogeneity of the include angle theta of a slot is attained.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the sectional view of the source equipment of sheet-like light of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is drawing showing how to take the configuration of a light guide plate P, and an axis of coordinates.

[Drawing 3] It is the bottom view which looked at the light guide plate P from the field in which Slot G

was formed this drawing (a) from -- (c) Various examples of arrangement of Slot G are shown.

[Drawing 4] the sectional view showing the configuration of one slot G -- it is -- this drawing (a) from - (e) by -- the configuration of various slots is shown.

[Drawing 5] It is drawing showing the example of arrangement of the light source L.

[Drawing 6] It is drawing showing the typical structure of the conventional source equipment of sheet-like light.

[Drawing 7] It is drawing showing the configuration of the light guide plate concerning an example.

[Description of Notations]

G Slot

L Line light source

P Light guide plate

R Rear-face reflecting plate

T Optical diffusion sheet

[Translation done.]

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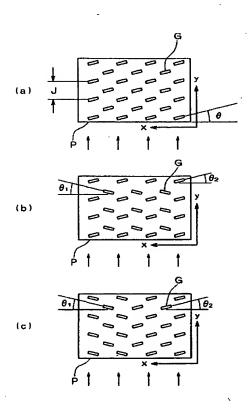
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(54) 【発明の名称】 導光板及び面状光源装置

(57) 【要約】

【課題】光源から導光板に入射した光を効率的に出射させることのできる面状光源装置及び導光板を実現する。 【解決手段】導光板Pの裏面に、導光板Pの中に導かれた光を反射・屈折させる溝Gを多数断続的に形成し、前記溝Gは方向性を有し、その長手方向は、導光板の一辺に対して角度 θ (0°< θ < \pm 45°)傾いている。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】矩形状の導光板の端面に光源を配置して、 この光源の光を導光板の中に導き、導光板の中を反射・ 屈折させながら導光板の正面から発光させる面状光源装 置に用いられる導光板であって、

導光板の裏面に、導光板の中に導かれた光を反射・屈折 させる溝を多数断続的に形成し、前記溝の長手方向は、 導光板の一辺に対して角度 θ (0°< θ \leq ±45°)傾 いていることを特徴とする導光板。

【請求項2】溝の長手方向が、導光板の一辺に対して1 0°ないし35°の角度(±10°≤θ≤±35°)傾 いていることを特徴とする請求項1記載の導光板。

【請求項3】前記溝は複数列配置され、溝の長手方向の 導光板の一辺に対する角度 θ は、一列の中では同一であ り、1列ごとに向きが逆になっていることを特徴とする 請求項1記載の導光板。

【請求項4】前記溝は複数列配置され、溝の長手方向の 導光板の一辺に対する角度 θ は、一群の列の中では同一 であり、一群ごとに向きが逆になっていることを特徴と する請求項1記載の導光板。

【請求項5】矩形状の導光板の端面に光源を配置して、 この光源の光を導光板の中に導き、導光板の中を反射・ 屈折させながら導光板の正面から発光させる面状光源装 置であって、

導光板の裏面に、導光板の中に導かれた光を反射・屈折 させる溝を多数断続的に形成し、前記溝の長手方向は、 主光源が配置される導光板の一辺に対して角度 θ (0° < θ ≤ ± 4 5°) 傾いていることを特徴とする面状光源 装置。

【請求項6】溝の長手方向が、主光源が配置される導光 30 板の一辺に対して10°ないし35°の角度(±10° ≤θ≤±35°)傾いていることを特徴とする請求項5 記載の面状光源装置。

【請求項7】前記溝は複数列配置され、溝の長手方向 の、主光源が配置される導光板の一辺に対する角度 θ は、一列の中では同一であり、1列ごとに向きが逆にな っていることを特徴とする請求項5記載の面状光源装

【請求項8】前記溝は複数列配置され、溝の長手方向 の、主光源が配置される導光板の一辺に対する角度 θ は、一群の列の中では同一であり、一群ごとに向きが逆 になっていることを特徴とする請求項5記載の面状光源 装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、液晶表示装置のバ ックライト等に用いる導光板及びこの導光板を用いた面 状光源装置に関するものである。

[0002]

状光源装置)を備えている。このバックライトとして、 透明な樹脂製の薄板(「導光板」という。)の端面に線 光源を配置し、この線光源の光を導光板の裏面や内部で・ 反射・屈折させながら、導光板の正面から光を一様に出 すものが知られている(特開平3-189679号公 報、特開平4-278922号公報、特開平7-724 77号公報など参照)。

【0003】このような導光板の典型的な構造を図6に 示す。導光板14の一端面には冷陰極管12が配置され ており、導光板14の裏面には反射パターンが印刷され ている。冷陰極管12から出た光は、導光板14の中に 入り、印刷ドット13等により反射されるとともに、導 光板14の内部と外部の境界等で屈折され、導光板14 の出射面すなわち正面から出射される。光出射の効率を 上げるために、冷陰極管12の回り、導光板の裏面及び 端面に各反射板15,16,17が設けられ、さらに導 光板14の正面には輝度ムラをなくすための光拡散シー ト18が置かれ、さらにその上に正面輝度を高めるため のプリズムシート19が置かれることがある。

【0004】導光板裏面の反射パターンは、TiO2な どの拡散剤を含んだ白色インキをドット状にスクリーン 印刷したもの、導光板の長辺方向又は短辺方向に沿って V溝を刻んだもの、エンボス加工、梨地加工したものが 知られている。さらに最近、導光板の正面又は裏面に、 光源から入射される光を反射屈折させる溝を多数断続的 に形成し、光源から入射される光の進行方向に沿って、 前記溝と溝の間に、光がそのまま通過することができる 隙間を設定した導光板が提案されている(特開平8-2 86037号公報参照)。この導光板によれば、均一な 面発光が可能となる。

[0005]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】前記特開平8-286 037号公報記載の導光板は、優れたものであるが、さ らに効率的に面発光し、正面輝度の高い導光板が求めら れている。そこで、本発明は、光源から導光板に入射し た光を効率的に出射させることのできる導光板及び面状 光源装置を実現することを目的とする。

[0006].

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明の導光板は、導光 板の裏面に、導光板の中に導かれた光を反射・屈折させ る溝を多数断続的に形成し、前記溝の長手方向は、導光 板の一辺に対して角度 θ (0° $< \theta \le \pm 45$ °) 傾いて いるものである(請求項1)。前記の構成によれば、導 光板の中に導かれた光は、斜めに設けられた溝に当たっ て反射屈折され、正面から発光するので、ほぼ均一なか つ効率的な面発光が可能となる。

【0007】特に、溝を斜めに形成することにより、溝 を真横に設けた場合 ($\theta = 0$ °) と比較して発光輝度が 上がり、液晶表示装置に用いた場合、画面が見やすくな 【従来の技術】液晶表示装置は、通常バックライト(面 50 る。前記1個1個の溝の形状は、特に限定されないが、

.3

基本的には、断面 V カットされた凹部ないしくぼみであり、開口面は長方形あるいは長楕円形、その開口面に対して直角な方向の断面は、頂角がほぼ 90°の二等辺三角形で、溝の両端面は平面もしくは外に向かって凸の曲率を有する面で、開口面及び頂辺に対してほぼ 45°の傾きをなす。

【0008】前記溝の長手方向は、導光板の一辺に対して10°ないし35°の角度(\pm 10° \leq 0 \leq \pm 35°)傾いていることが好ましい(請求項2)。特に、 \pm 15° \leq 0 \leq \pm 25°の範囲であることが好ましい。このような角度 θ 00範囲であれば、均一な面発光を特に容易に実現することができる。

【0009】前記溝は複数列配置され、溝の長手方向の 導光板の一辺に対する角度 θ は、一列の中では同一であり、1列ごとに向きが逆になっていることが望ましい(請求項3)。このような配列であれば、導光板の中に 導かれた光は、斜めに設けられた溝に当たって一列ごと に違う角度で反射屈折されるので、より均一なかつより 効率的な面発光が可能となる。

【0010】前記溝は複数列配置され、溝の長手方向の 20 導光板の一辺に対する角度 θ は、一群の列の中では同一であり、一群ごとに向きが逆になっていることが望ましい(請求項4)。このような配列であれば、導光板の中に導かれた光は、斜めに設けられた溝に当たって一群の一列ごとに違う角度で反射屈折されるので、請求項3記載の発明と同様、より均一なかつより効率的な面発光が可能となる。

【0011】また、本発明の面状光源装置は、請求項1から請求項4までに記載の導光板を使用するものである(請求項5-請求項8)。なお、請求項5-請求項8に 30おいて「主光源」という用語を用いているが、この意味は次の通りである。1つの光源が配置されているときは、当該光源が「主光源」となり、複数の光源が導光板の異なる端面に配置されているときは、いずれか総光量の多いほうが「主光源」になる。総光量が同一のときは、いずれか任意の一方が「主光源」になる。

[0012]

【発明の実施の形態】以下実施例を示す添付図面によって詳細に説明する。図1は、面状光源装置の断面図であり、導光板Pの一端面(図では左側)には、冷陰極線管等の線光源上が配置されていて、この線光源しの光が前記一端面を通して導光板Pの内部に導入されるようになっている。導光板Pの下面(裏面)には、導光板Pの内部に導入された光を下部に漏らさずに進行させるための裏面反射板Rが密着状態で取り付けられ、導光板Pの上面(正面)には、導光板Pの上面から出射した光を拡散させる光拡散シートTが密着状態で取り付けられている。また、光拡散シートTの上に、光を正面方向に向けるためのプリズムシート(図示せず)が取り付けられる。

【0013】導光板P自体は、アクリル樹脂(MMA等)、ポリスチレン、ポリカーボネート、ポリ塩化ビニル、ポリプロピレン等の透明樹脂で構成され、その裏面には、方向性を有する溝Gが多数形成されている(図3参照)。図2は、導光板Pの形状及び座標軸のとり方を示す図である。導光板Pは矩形状をしており、正面方向を+z方向、裏面方向を-z方向にとり、端面方向を±x方向及び±y方向にとる。図では、-y方向の端面に線光源Lが配置されている。

【0014】図3(a) は、裏面すなわち溝Gの形成された面から導光板Pを見た下面図である。それぞれの溝Gは微小な細長いくぼみであり、溝の長手方向が、線光源Lの配置されている-x方向と角度 θ をなすように配置されている。そして溝同士は、縦(y)方向に一列に配列されている。ある一列を構成する溝と、その隣の一列を構成する溝とは、互いに半ピッチ(J/2)だけずれて配置されているので、全体として見れば溝は交互に配置されていることになる。角度 θ の範囲は、0°から±45°まで、好ましくは、 ± 10 °から ± 35 °までである。

【0015】図3 (b) は、溝の他の配置例を示す図である。ある一列を構成する溝はx方向と角度 θ 1 をなすように配置され、その隣の一列を構成する溝は-x方向と角度 θ 2 をなすように配置されている。したがって、図3 (b) の溝は、図3 (a) と同様、全体として見れば交互に配置されているが、一列おきに方向が異なっているのが違っている。角度 θ 1 の範囲は、0°から±45°まで、好ましくは、±10°から±35°までであり、角度 θ 2 の範囲も、0°から±45°まで、好ましくは、±10°から±35°までである。

【0016】図3(c) は、さらに他の溝の配置例を示す図である。ある複数列(一群の列)を構成する溝はすべてx方向と角度 θ 1をなすように配置され、その次の複数列を構成する溝は-x方向と角度 θ 2をなすように配置されている。したがって、この図3(c)の溝は、図3(a)と同様、全体として見れば交互に配置されているが、複数列おきに方向が異なっているのが特徴である。角度 θ 1、 θ 2のとり得る範囲も、0°から±45°まで、好ましくは、±10°から±35°までである。

【0017】図4は、1つの溝Gの形状を示す断面図であり、同図(a) から(e) までに、いろいろな変形例を示す。図4(a) は、三角柱の形状を示す。a1は縦断面図、a2は横断面図、a3は形状の斜視図である((b) から(e) についても以下同じ)。縦断面の溝の長さをdで表わし、溝の深さをhで表わす。溝の横断面はVカットされほぼ二等辺三角形となっている。この溝の深さhを変えることにより、反射屈折の割合を調節することができるので、導光板の正面から光が均一に出射されるように溝の深さhを選択することができる(以下図4(b)

50°~(e) において同じ)。

.5

【0018】図4(b) にも、三角柱の形状を示す。横断面はほぼ直角三角形となっている。図4(c) は、一側辺が他の側辺より短い三角柱を示す。図4(d) は、図4(c) を基本形として、開口面を小判型とし、両角を丸く切り落とした形状を示す。図4(e) は、四角柱の形状を示す。縦断面、横断面とも、一辺が対向する辺よりも短い台形になっている。

【0019】このような溝を持つ導光板Pは、導光板P の量産性を考慮すると、金型を使って射出成形して作る ことが好ましいが、もちろん、1つ1つの溝を超硬バイ ト又はダイヤモンドバイトで切削加工して作ることも可 能である。以上、本発明の実施の形態を説明してきた が、本発明は、前記形態に限定されるものではない。例 えば、溝の形状は、方向性を有するものであれば、前記 形態に限られるものではない。また、光源は、前記実施 形態では光源Lは、図5(a)に示すように導光板Pの一 端面に配置されていたが、図5(b) に示すように導光板 Pの2端面にそれぞれ配置されていてもよく、図5(c) に示すように、導光板Pの対向する2端面に配置されて いてもよく、図5(d) に示すように、導光板Pの3端面 20 にコの字形に配置されていてもよい。図5(b)から(d) において、「主光源」は、上または下に配置された光源 となる。

【0020】その他本発明の要旨を変更しない範囲で種々の変更を施すことが可能である。

[0021]

【実施例】(1) 本発明の実施例

120mm×90mm (対角6インチ)、厚さ3mmの*

溝の傾斜角度 $\theta=1$ 0° の場合正面輝度は 2045 cd/cm2 溝の傾斜角度 $\theta=2$ 0° の場合正面輝度は 2294 cd/cm2

溝の傾斜角度 $\theta = 3.0$ ° の場合正面輝度は 2028 cd/cm2

であった。

(2) 比較例

溝の傾斜角度が0°の導光板を製作し、前記と同様にして正面輝度を測定したところ、1965 cd /cm2 であった。

【0025】したがって、溝を傾けたほうが明るい導光板となることがわかった。

[0026]

【発明の効果】以上のように請求項1記載の導光板又は 40 請求項5記載の面状光源装置によれば、導光板の裏面 に、導光板の中に導かれた光を反射・屈折させる溝を多数断続的に形成し、前記溝の長手方向は、導光板の一辺 に対して角度 θ (0°< θ \leq \pm 45°) 傾いているの で、角度 θ が0°の導光板や90°の導光板と比べる と、輝度のより高い均一な面発光をさせる導光板又は面 状光源装置を実現することができる。

【0027】請求項2記載の導光板又は請求項6記載の面状光源装置によれば、溝の長手方向は、当該端面に対して 10° ないし 35° の角度($\pm 10^\circ \le \theta \le \pm 35$

*アクリル樹脂製の透明板に、超鋼バイトで溝を1つ1つ切削加工して設けた。溝の配列は、図7 (a) に示したように、一列は入光面に対して溝を角度 θ 傾けて設け、そのピッチ」は1.2 mmとした。その隣の一列は半ピッチずらし、入光面に対して角度 $-\theta$ 傾けて設け、これらを交互に繰り返し導光板の裏面全面に溝を設けた。

【0022】各溝の形状は、図7(b) に示したように、図4(d) と同様のものである。開口面が長円形で、長軸の端から 45° 、短軸の端から 45° の角度で彫られている。溝の頂辺の長さ e は 260μ m、深さ h は入光面に最も近い溝で $h=25\mu$ mとし、入光面から遠ざかるにつれて深くし、最も遠い溝で $h=180\mu$ mとした。

【0023】なお、光源として、インバータ駆動される外径2mmの冷陰極線管を導光板の入光面に配置し、光源の配置されていない側面、導光板の裏面及び冷陰極線管の回りには不透明PET(ポリエチレンテレフタレート)フィルムからなる反射板を配置した。導光板の表面(出射面)には、光拡散シートとして恵和商工社製のオパルスZN-BSを、プリズムシートとして住友3M社製のBEFIIを配置した。評価方法は、ミノルタ社製の輝度計LS-110に接写レンズを取り付けたものを用いて出射面から20cm離れた位置から発光面の中央部の正面輝度を測定した。また、必要に応じて導光板を回転ステージに取り付けて回転させることにより、輝度の視野角特性を測定した。目視によれば、均一な分布が得られた。

[0024]

。)傾いているので、光を効率よく反射屈折させることができ、均一な面発光を一層容易に実現することができる。請求項3記載の導光板又は請求項7記載の面状光源装置によれば、溝の角度 θ は、一列ごとに向きが逆になっているので、導光板の中に導かれた光は、斜めに設けられた溝に当たって一列ごとに反対の角度で反射屈折され、一層均一なかつより効率的な面発光が可能となる。

【0028】請求項4記載の導光板又は請求項8記載の面状光源装置によれば、溝の角度 θ は、一群ごとに向きが逆になっているので、導光板の中に導かれた光は、斜めに設けられた溝に当たって一群ごとに反対の角度で反射屈折され、一層均一なかつより効率的な面発光が可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の面状光源装置の断面図である。

【図2】導光板Pの形状及び座標軸のとり方を示す図である。

【図3】溝Gの形成された面から導光板Pを見た下面図である。同図(a)から(c)に、溝Gのいろいろな配置例

を示す。

【図4】1つの溝Gの形状を示す断面図であり、同図(a)から(e)までに、いろいろな溝の形状を示す。

【図5】光源Lの配置例を示す図である。

【図6】従来の面状光源装置の典型的な構造を示す図である。 .

【図7】実施例に係る導光板の形状を示す図である。

【符号の説明】

- G 溝
- L 線光源
- P 導光板
- R 裏面反射板
- T 光拡散シート

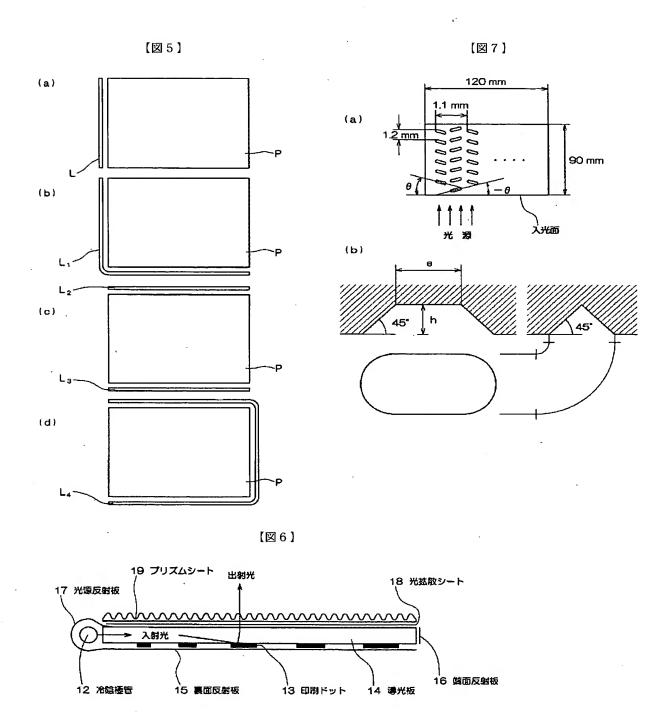
 (図1)

 (図2)

 (文字

 (日本)

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フロントページの続き

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